



RONNIE SPECTOR

SOMETHING'S GONNA HAPPEN

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1. Something's Gonna Happen (Marshall Crenshaw) Jiru Music Inc (ASCAP)

2. For His Love (Marshall Crenshaw) MHC Music (ASCAP)

3. Whenever You're On My Mind (Marshall Crenshaw & William J. Teeley) MHC Music (ASCAP) Bill Teeley Music (BMI)

4. Communication (Marshall Crenshaw) Bellwin Mills Publishing (ASCAP)

5. Favorite Waste of Time (Marshall Crenshaw) MHC Music (ASCAP)

TRACKS 1-4

Produced by Alan Betrock

Engineered by Jim Ball

Recorded at the Record Plant, NYC

Marshall Crenshaw: guitars

Graham Maby: bass

Robert Crenshaw: drums

The Pussywillows: background vocals

TRACK 5

Produced, arranged and recorded by Jan Fairchild

Recorded at Passion Studios, Westport, CT

Robbie LeBlanc: guitars

Brian LeBlanc: bass

Jan Fairchild: drum programming

Dorianne Elliot, Robbie & Brian LeBlanc: background vocals

Mastered by Howard Rappaport

Designed by Elizabeth Van Itallie

Special thanks to Billy Miller, Janet Oseroff, Bob Donnelly, Harriet Greenfield, Hiroko Onogi (Rockie), Jeremy Chatzky, Debra Greenfield, Miriam Linna, Todd Abramson and Joey Ramone. And to my sons Austin and Jason, thanks for the giggles and the good times in the studio.

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BAD GIRL SOUNDS

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SOMETHING'S GONNA HAPPEN: RONNIE SPECTOR SINGS MARSHALL CRENSHAW

Although its release comes more than a decade after its creation, there's nothing dated about the music of *Something's Gonna Happen*. These songs are not demos or outtakes or inferior efforts previously rejected. Indeed, these recordings rank with Ronnie Spector's best — a harmonic convergence of top-shelf material, sympathetic production and spirited performance.

By 1989, Spector's post-Ronettes recording career had reached an impasse after just two long-playing releases as a solo artist. The first, *Siren*, was a good-faith attempt by album producer Genya Ravan to link Ronnie with the post-punk new wave. However, *Siren* suffered from uneven material and — when issued in 1980 on Ravan's own Polish label — the sort of distribution problems typically faced by indie startups.

In 1986, the singer made a surprising return to the Top Five with her evocative guest vocal on Eddie Money's Grammy-nominated single "Take Me Home Tonight." But Ronnie's own 1987 album *Unfinished Business* was an overproduced pastiche that never quite found a place on Columbia Records' list of promotional priorities despite the contributions of Paul Shaffer, the Bangles' Susanna Hoffs, and platinum songwriters Diane Warren and Desmond Child.

Within six months of the release of *Unfinished Business*, one of rock and roll's most distinctive singers was label-less.

But if the majors had abandoned Ronnie, she could still count on the friendship and support of Alan Betrock. A dedicated record collector, founder of *The Rock Marketplace* and *New York Rocker* magazines, and author of the genre-defining book *Girl Groups: The Story of a Sound*, Betrock was also an experienced producer and former indie label entrepreneur. His Shake Records had issued the first commercial sides by the gifted pop-rock singer and songwriter Marshall Crenshaw.

Alan pitched the tunes of his friend Marshall to his friend Ronnie, and together they selected four numbers from the Crenshaw songbook: "Something's Gonna Happen," "For His Love," "Communication,"

and "Whenever You're On My Mind." For the studio band, Betrock recruited Marshall himself on guitar, brother Robert Crenshaw (drums), and bassist Graham Maby; he added backing vocals by nouveau girl group the Pussywillows. In the spring of 1989, after just one day's rehearsal, Ronnie and her supporting cast entered The Record Plant in New York. (The fifth track on this CD, "You're My Favorite Waste of Time," was cut in 1994 with a different producer and band.)

The results were and still are a delight: Every element of *Something's Gonna Happen* complements every other element, beautifully. Alan Betrock's conceptual vision and skillful execution freed Ronnie Spector from the golden chains of her own legend in a way that none of her other post-Ronettes records had done. (This disc should bear a sticker: *Contains No Quotes From "Be My Baby!"*) In turn, Ronnie responded to his good-natured guidance and the band's charged enthusiasm with some of her best singing on record. Her tone is warm and soulful, her phrasing adept and playful and free of mannerisms.

These songs brought Ronnie Spector back to a sort of career Ground Zero, a fresh starting point from which she could begin to re-imagine herself as a contemporary performer.

Though we couldn't have known it then, the *Something's Gonna Happen* sessions would effectively clear the air after her Columbia period and set Ronnie on the road to successful studio collaborations with Joey Ramone (released in 1999 as the Kill Rock Stars EP *She Talks to Rainbows*) and to the album she's cutting now, at this writing, in the spring of 2001.

All concerned hoped the *Something's Gonna Happen* tracks would be the cornerstone of a full-length album. But before that plan could be realized, The Record Plant slid into bankruptcy and the court seized its assets, including these tapes. In 2000, Ronnie and her husband and manager Jonathan Greenfield finally regained control of the tapes.

Alan Betrock did not live to see their release. In declining health, he would never again bring his gentle humor and acute pop sensibility to a studio control room. He died of cancer in April 2000, at age 49.

So this one's for you, AB — from Ronnie and Marshall and the gang, with love. You dreamed *Something's Gonna Happen*, and it did.

—Andy Schwartz

Andy Schwartz (Gramercy7@yahoo.com) is a writer based in New York City. He is the former editor and publisher of *New York Rocker*.



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STEREO DIFF

DATE 5-8-89
REEL #

CLIENT Ronnie Spector
PRODUCED BY Alan Detreck
ARTIST Ronnie Spector
ENGINEER/ASSISTANT ENGINEER JAD/GR/Deer
DATE 11 Apr 89
TAPE 2
SIDE 15

TAPE
☒ AMPEX 555
☐ AMPEX 456
☐ SCOTCH 3M
☐

NOISE REDUCTION
☒ DOLBY
☐ DBE

ORIGINAL
☐ COMP. MAST.
☐ SAFETY
☐ COPY

OF

COMMENT

EDIT TO

TAKE	TITLE
1	CT For Her Love
1	CT Communication
1	CT When I see you on my mind
1	CT Kids in Studio Outtake
1	CT Somethings Gonna Happen
2	CT ..
1	CT For His Love
2	CT ..

no vox

w/ vox cone TL

w/ vox cone TL

VOX #1 TL

VOX #2 TL

VOX #1 TL

VOX #2 TL



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